

Page 42, lines 12 and 13, change "KA" (both occurrences) to read --KA1, KA2 and KA3--;

line 17, change "KA" to read --KA3--; and

line 20, after "MK" insert --and unit KA1--.

5 Substitute page 44, line 1, change "New Patent Claims" to read --WE CLAIM--;

lines 2 and 3, delete these lines.

Page 59, line 1, change "Abstract" to read --ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE--;

10 lines 2 and 3, delete these lines;

line 8, change "it being possible for them" to read --and it is possible for the closure--; and

line 17, delete "Figure 6".

IN THE CLAIMS:

15 New claims 1-68 on the substitute pages.

Please amend claims 1-3 to read as follows:

20 --1. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system comprising a cable closure for optical waveguides with splice organizers and excess-length depositories for excess lengths of optical waveguide and comprising at least one optical fibre cable, cable lead-in units in the form of cable lead-in spigots being arranged to extend into the cable closure perpendicularly with respect to [the] an axis of [the] a closure body of the cable closure, the excess lengths of optical waveguide and the

splice organizers being arranged within the closure body removably in the axial direction of the closure body, and at least one end face of the closure body being closed off in a sealing manner by an externally accessible cover, [characterized in that] the improvement comprising the cable lead-in units [are designed as] being

5 lead-in spigots [(13)] in the form of pipes [(45, 46)] tightly fitted on the closure body, [in that] the optical-fibre cables [(10)] in the form of optical waveguide minicables or optical waveguide microcables, respectively comprising a pipe [(8, 9, 15)] and optical waveguides [(12)], optical waveguide strips or optical waveguide bundles loosely introduced therein, [are] said cables being arranged in the cable lead-in units
10 [(13, 17-18, 45, 46, 56, 70)] which are designed in terms of pipe connecting

technology for receiving and sealing off the pipes [(8, 9, 15)] of the optical-fibre cables [(10)], the sealing connection of the pipe connecting technology being a
connection selected from a group consisting of welded connections, soldered [or]
connections and an adhesively bonded connection between the pipe [(8, 9, 15)] of the
15 optical fibre cable [(10)] and the cable lead-in unit [(13)].

according to claim 1, wherein
--2. (Amended) Optical fibre transmission system, comprising a cable

closure for optical waveguides with splice organizers and excess-length depositories for excess lengths of optical waveguide and comprising at least one optical-fibre cable, cable lead-in units in the form of cable lead-in spigots being arranged to
20 extend into the cable closure perpendicularly with respect to [the] an axis of [the] a closure body of the cable closure, the excess lengths of optical waveguide and the splice organizers being arranged within the closure body removably in the axial direction of the closure body, and at least one end face of the closure body being closed off in a sealing manner by an externally accessible cover, [characterized in
25 that] the improvement comprising the cable lead-in units [are designed as] being
lead-in spigots [(13)] in the form of pipes [(45, 46)] tightly fitted on the closure body,

[in that] the optical-fibre cables [(10) in the form of] being optical waveguide minicables or optical waveguide microcables, respectively comprising a pipe [(8, 9, 15)] and optical waveguides [(12)], optical waveguide strips or optical waveguide bundles loosely introduced therein, [are] said cable being arranged in the cable lead-in units [(13, 17-18, 45, 46, 56, 70)] which are designed in terms of pipe connecting technology for receiving and sealing off the pipes [(8, 9, 15)] of the optical-fibre cables [(10)], the sealing connection of the pipe connecting technology being a press connection with sealing means and a pressing element with a union nut, between the pipe [(8, 9, 15)] of the optical-fibre cable [(10)] and the cable lead-in unit [(13)].--

according to claim 33 wherein
--3. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system ~~comprising a cable~~

closure for optical waveguides with splice organizers and excess-length depositories for excess lengths of optical waveguide and comprising at least one optical-fibre cable, cable lead-in units in the form of cable lead-in spigots being arranged to extend into the cable closure perpendicularly with respect to [the] an axis of [the] a closure body of the cable closure, the excess lengths of optical waveguide and the splice organizers being arranged within the closure body removably in the axial direction of the closure body, and at least one end face of the closure body being closed off in a sealing manner by an externally accessible cover, [characterized in that] the improvement comprising the cable lead-in units [are] being designed as lead-in spigots [(13)] in the form of pipes [(45, 46)] tightly fitted on the closure body, [in that] the optical-fibre cables [(10) in the form of] being optical waveguide minicables or optical waveguide microcables, respectively comprising a pipe [(8, 9, 15)] and optical waveguides [(12)], optical waveguide strips or optical waveguide bundles loosely introduced therein, [are] said cables being arranged in the cable lead-in units [(13, 17-18, 45, 46, 56, 70)] designed in terms of pipe connecting technology for receiving and sealing off the pipes [(8, 9, 15)] of the optical-fibre cables [(10)],

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end

the sealing connection of the pipe connecting technology being selected from a group consisting of a plastic crimped connection [(58, 89) or] and a permanently elastic, annular seal between the pipe [(8, 9, 15)] of the optical-fibre cable [(10)] and the cable lead-in unit [(13)].--

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5 Claim 4, line 2, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--; and
same line, delete "(5, 44)".

Claim 5, line 2, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--.

Claim 6, line 2, change "one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that" to read
--claim 1, wherein--;

10 line 3, delete "(13)"; and
line 4, delete "(5, 44)".

Claim 7, line 2, change the line to read --claim 1, wherein--;
line 3, delete "(13)"; and
line 4, delete "(5, 44)".

15 Claim 8, line 2, change the line to read --claim 1, wherein the--; and
line 3, delete "(13)".

Claim 9, line 2, change the line to read --claim 1, wherein the cable--; and
line 3, delete "(13)".

20 Claim 10, line 2, change the line to read --claim 1, wherein the--; and
line 3, delete "(13)".

Claim 11, line 2, change the line to read --claim 1, wherein the cable--; and
line 3, delete "(13)".

Claim 12, line 2, change the line to read --claim 1, wherein the--;
line 3, delete "(24)"; and
line 4, delete "(5)".

Claim 13, line 2, change the line to read --claim 1, wherein--;
line 3, delete "(30, 38)"; and
line 5, delete "(5)".

Claim 14, line 2, change the line to read --claim 1, wherein the--; and
line 4, delete "(54)".

Claim 15, line 2, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--;
line 3, delete "(87)"; and
line 4, delete "(13)".

Please amend claim 16 to read as follows:

--16. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system according to [one of
the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 7⁷², which includes a compensation
loop [(47) of] for the pipe of the optical-fibre cable [(10) is] being arranged ahead of
the lead-in into a cable lead-in unit [(13)].--

Claim 17, line 2, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--;
line 3, delete "(47)"; and
line 4, delete "(13)".

Please amend claim 18 to read as follows:

5 --18. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system according to [one of
C the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1⁷², wherein the closure housing [(5,
44) and the] has a cover [(20, 73, 74)], said housing and cover are designed to
withstand high mechanical loading and for fitting into a [drilled] core hole of a laying
route which hole is drilled in the ground[, preferably in a road surfacing].--

10 Claim 19, line 2, change the line to read --claim 1, wherein the--;
line 3, delete "(13)"; and
line 4, delete "(5, 44)".

 Claim 20, line 2, change "one of claims 1 to 18, characterized in that" to
read --claim 1, wherein the--;
15 line 3, delete "(13)"; and
line 4, delete "(5, 44)".

 Claim 21, line 2, change the line to read --claim 1, wherein--;
line 3, delete "that" and "(13)";
line 4, delete "preferably"; and
20 line 5, delete "(10)".

Claim 22, line 2, rewrite the line to read --claim 1, wherein--;

line 3, delete "(61)";

line 4, delete "(64)" (both occurrences);

line 5, delete "(63)" and "(62)";

lines 5 and 6, change "in that the" to read --an--;

line 7, delete "(61)" and "(64)"; and

line 8, delete ", preferably" and "(66)".

Claim 23, line 2, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--;

line 3, delete "(64)"; and

line 4, delete "(68)".

Claim 24, line 2, change the line to read --claim 1, wherein--.

Please amend claims 25-27 to read as follows:

--25. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system comprising a cable closure for optical waveguides with splice organizers and excess-length depositories for excess lengths of optical waveguide and [comprising] having at least one optical-fibre cable, cable lead-in units of the cable closure being arranged in [the] an axial direction of the closure body of the cable closure, [characterized in that] the improvement comprising the cable closure [(1, 2, 1a, 1b) comprises] having an extended closure pipe [(19)], [in that] the closure pipe [(19) is] being adapted at the ends to the diameter of the pipe of the optical-fibre cable [(8, 9, 10, 15)], [in that] the leading in of the pipes of the optical-fibre cable takes place in the axial direction of the closure pipe [(19)] and [in that the] seals between the closure pipe [(19)] and the optical-fibre cables [(9, 9, 10, 15)] take place in cable lead-in units [(17-18)] adapted

in terms of pipe connecting technology to the diameters of the optical-fibre cables, the sealing connection of the cable lead-in unit [(17-18)] in terms of pipe connecting technology [comprising] being peripheral press seals.--

--26. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system comprising a cable closure for optical waveguides with splice organizers and excess-length depositories for excess lengths of optical waveguide and [comprising] having at least one optical-fibre cable, cable lead-in units of the cable closure being arranged in the axial direction of the closure body of the cable closure, [characterized in that] the improvement comprising the cable closure [(1, 2, 1a, 1b) comprises] having an extended closure pipe [(19)], [in that] the closure pipe [(19) is] being adapted at the ends to the diameter of the pipe of the optical-fibre cable [(8, 9, 10, 15)], [in that] the leading in of the pipes of the optical-fibre cables takes place in the axial direction of the closure pipe [(19)] and [in that] the seals between the closure pipe [(19)] and the optical-fibre cables [(8, 9, 10, 15)] take place in cable lead-in units [(17-18)] being adapted in terms of pipe connecting technology to the diameters of the optical-fibre cables, and the ends of the extended closure pipe [(19) are] being provided in terms of pipe connecting technology with an external thread, [in that] and the seals [are] being formed by union nuts [(17-18)] and elastic sealing inserts [(14)].--

--27. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system comprising a cable closure for optical waveguides with splice organizers and excess-length depositories for excess lengths of optical waveguide and [comprising] having at least one optical-fibre cable, cable lead-in units of the cable closure being arranged in the axial direction of the closure body of the cable closure, [characterized in that] the improvement comprising the cable closure [(1, 2, 1a) 1b) comprises] having an extended closure pipe [(19)], [in that] the closure pipe [(19) is] being adapted at the

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ends to the diameter of the pipe of the optical-fibre cable [(8, 9, 10, 15)], [in that] the leading in of the pipes of the optical-fibre cables takes place in the axial direction of the closure pipe [(19)] and the optical-fibre cables [(8, 9, 10, 15)] take place in cable lead-in units [(17-18)] adapted in terms of pipe connecting technology to the diameters of the optical-fibre cables, and [in that] the seals at the ends of the extended closure pipe [(19, KM) are] being formed in terms of pipe connecting technology by crimped connections [(87)].--

Claim 28, line 2, change "one of claims 25 to 27 characterized in that" to read --claim 25, wherein--;

line 3, delete "(2)"; and

line 4, delete "(9, 15)".

Claim 29, line 2, change the line to read --claim 1, wherein the cable--; and line 3, delete "(33, 35)".

Claim 30, line 2, change "one of claims 25 to 37, characterized in that" to read --claim 1, wherein--;

line 3, delete "(33-35), or the extended closure pipe (19),";

line 4, delete ", preferably"; and

line 5, delete "(13, 36)".

Claim 31, line 2, change "2 or 25, characterized in that" to read --25, wherein--; and

line 3, delete "(13)".

Claim 32, line 2, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--; and
line 4, delete "(33, 35)".

Claim 33, line 2, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein the--;
same line, delete "(13)"; and
line 4, delete "(33, 35) or sections".

Claim 34, line 2, change the line to read --claim 1, wherein the--;
line 3, delete "(5)"; and
line 4, delete "(29)".

Claim 35, line 2, change "one of claims 1 or" to read --claim--;
same line, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--;
line 3, delete "(68, 73, 76, 80),";
line 4, change "(73)" to read --for--; and
line 5, change "(68, 76, 80)" to read --for--.

Claim 36, line 2, change "one of claims" to read --claim--;
same line, change "or 27, characterized in that" to read --, wherein--;
and
line 3, delete "(1)".

Claim 37, line 2, change "one of claims" to read --claim--;
same line, change "or 17, characterized in that" to read --, wherein--;
line 3, delete "(10)";
line 4, after "by" insert --the--; and
line 5, change "loops (47)" to read --loop--.

Claim 38, line 2, change the line to read --claim 3, wherein--.

Claim 39, line 2, change the line to read --claim 2, wherein--; and
line 3, change "hot shrink" to read --shrink--.

Please amend claim 40 to read as follows:

5 --40. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system according to Claim 27,
[characterized in that], wherein sealing heads [(DK1-DK4)] of plastically deformable
material[, preferably of a metal,] are crimped onto the pipes of the optical-fibre
cables [(MK1-MK6)] in a sealing manner at peripheral crimping points [(KRK)], [in
that] the closure pipe [(MR1, MR2) likewise] consists of deformable material[,
10 preferably of a metal,] and is crimped on at its end faces onto the sealing heads
[(DK1-DK4)] at the peripheral crimping points [(KRMR)], [in that] the closure pipe
[(MR1, MR2) is] being dimensioned in length [such] so that adequate excess lengths
of optical waveguide [(LU1, LU2)] can be arranged in waveform extent therein and
optical-fibre splices [(LS)] can be arranged therein.--

15 Claim 41, line 2, delete "27 or";
 same line, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--;
 line 3, delete "(LS)"; and
 line 4, delete "(KM)".

20 Claim 42, line 2, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--;
 line 3, delete "(LS)"; and
 line 4, delete "(KM)".

Claim 43, line 2, change "one of claims" to read --claim 1--;
same line, change "to 42, characterized in that the" to read --,
wherein a--;
line 3, delete "(BDK)";
5 same line, change "the" to read --each--;
same line, delete "(DK1, DK2)";
line 5, delete "(MK1-MK6)" and "(AS)";
lines 6 and 7, delete "(MK1-MK6)"; and
line 7, delete "(BDK)".

10 Please amend claims 44-47 to read as follows:

--44. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system according to [one of
claims] claim 40 [to 42], [characterized in that the] wherein each sealing head [(DK3,
DK4)] has a plurality of lead-in bores [(EB)], [in that] crimpable cable lead-in
spigots [(KES1-KES4) are] being inserted in a sealtight manner in the lead-in bores
15 [(EB)], the seals between the pipes of the optical-fibre cables [(MK1-MK6)] and the
cable lead-in spigots [(KE1-KE4)] taking place at the peripheral crimping points
[(KRK)].--

--45. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system according to [one of
claims] claim 40 [to 44], [characterized in that] wherein the sealing heads [(DK1-
DK4) and/or] and the closure pipe [(MR1, MR2)] consist of a material selected from
20 copper, [or] a similarly plastically deformable metal [or] and copper-based wrought
alloys.--

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--46. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system according to [one of claims] claim 40 [to 44], [characterized in that] wherein the sealing heads [(DK1 to DK4) and/or] and the closure pipe [(MR1, MR2)] consist of a material selected from aluminum [or] and cold-workable, non-hardenable aluminum alloys.--

5 --47. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system according to [one of claims] claim 40 [to 44], [characterized in that] wherein the sealing heads [(DK1 to DK4) and/or] and the closure pipe [(MR1, MR2)] consist of plastically deformable, non-hardened, stainless steel.--

10 Please cancel claim 48, without prejudice, and substitute the following claim:

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15 --69. A method for producing sealtight splice connections with the aid of a cable closure having a closure pipe with a sealing head at each end, each sealing head engaging a pipe of an optical fibre cable with the optical fibres of the cables being spliced together within the closure pipe, said method comprising the steps of attaching a sealing head to the pipe of each optical fibre cable, pushing the closure pipe telescopically over one of the sealing heads and its respective optical fibre cable, splicing the optical fibres of the two cables together leaving an excess length on each side of the splice, then shifting the closure pipe to extend between the two sealing heads, securing the sealing heads by crimping into the ends of the closure pipe to

20 form a sealtight structure.--

Claim 49, line 2, change the line to read --claim 40, wherein the--;
line 3, delete "(MK1)";

line 5, delete "(MR1)"; and
line 6, delete "(DK1)".

Please amend claim 50 to read as follows:

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5 --50. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system according to [one of
Claims] claim 2 [or 26], [characterized in that] wherein the sealing heads have
threads at their ends, [in that] deformable cutting rings are inserted at the sealing
points between the sealing head outer facings and the closure pipe and between the
sealing head bores and the pipe ends of the microcables, [in that] and the union nuts
which extend over the cutting rings are screwed onto the threads of the sealing
10 heads.--

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Please cancel claim 51, without prejudice, and substitute the following
claim:

AM
15 --70. A method of connecting a microcable comprising a pipe with lead-in
optical waveguides, which microcable is introduced into a laying channel in a firmly
laying ground to an existing optical-fibre transmission system of a conventional type
with cable closures for the optical-fibre transmission system, said method comprising
the steps of leading the microcable into an adapter closure for receiving the
microcables through a cable lead-in of a manhole of the existing optical-fibre
transmission system which has been made in the same laying ground, splicing the
20 optical waveguides of the microcable within the adapter closure onto optical
waveguides of a flexible cross-connecting cable, passing the cross-connecting cable
into a conventional splicing closure for the optical waveguides for connection to the
optical cables of the existing optical-fibre transmission system and joining the

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waveguides of the cross-connecting cable to the waveguides of the optical-fibre transmission system within the splicing closure.

MT.

5 Claim 52, line 1, change "51" to read --70--;
line 2, delete "(105)" and "(103)";
line 3, delete "(109)"; and
line 4, delete "(110)".

10 Claim 53, line 1, change "one of claims 51 or" to read --claim--;
line 2, change "characterized in that" to read --which includes forming--;
same line, delete "(108) is made";
line 3, delete "(102)";
lines 4 and 6, delete "(103)" (both occurrences);
line 4, change "in that" to read --and--;
line 5, delete "(105)";
15 line 6, delete "(108)"; and
line 7, delete "(107)".

11 Claim 54, line 1, change "one of claims 51 to 53" to read --claim 70--;
line 2, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--; and
line 3, delete "(103)".

20 Please cancel claim 55, without prejudice, and substitute the following claim:

71. A method of connecting an optical-fibre transmission system comprising a cable closure and at least one microcable comprising a pipe with lead-in optical fibres which has been introduced into a main channel and the solid laying ground to an existing optical-fibre transmission system of a conventional type having a manhole with an existing optical fibre network, said method comprising the steps of providing a buried cable at the height of the lead-in level of the manhole extending between the manhole and an adapter closure spaced from the manhole, splicing the waveguides of the buried cable to the existing optical fibre network and placing them in a splicing closure in the manhole, leading the microcable into the adapter closure and splicing the waveguides of the microcable to the waveguides of the buried cable.--

Please amend claim 56 to read as follows:

56. (Amended) Optical-fibre transmission system according to [one of Claims] claim 16, [17 or 37, characterized in that] which includes a protective device for elongation loops of optical-fibre [cables, in particular of] microcables[,] for terminating a core hole in solid laying ground [is arranged, in that], the protective device comprises a protective cover [(SD)] and a driving-in peg [(ES),] provided centrally at one end[,] for fixing in a central hole at the bottom of the core hole [(KB), in that], the diameter of the protective cover [(SD)] corresponds to the diameter of the core hole [(KB)] and [in that] filling material is arranged above the protective cover [(SD)] for sealtight termination and for filling the remaining core hole [(KB)].--

Claim 57, line 2, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--;
lines 2 and 3, delete "(VN1, VN2)"; and
line 3, delete "(KB)".

Claim 58, line 2, change "one of claims" to read --claim--;
same line, change "or 57, characterized in that" to read --, wherein--;
line 3, delete "(SD)"; and
line 4, delete "(ZO)".

Claim 59, line 2, change "one of claims" to read --claim--;
same line, change "to 58, characterized in that" to read --, wherein--;
line 3, delete "(ES)";
line 4, delete "(KB), as";
same line, delete "(EBS)";
line 5, change "(DS)," to read --with--; and
line 6, delete "(MK)".

Claim 60, line 2, change the line to read --claim 56, wherein the filling--;
and
line 4, delete "(FM)".

Claim 61, line 2, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--; and
line 4, delete "(FM)".

Claim 62, line 2, change "one of claims" to read --claim--;
same line, change "to 61, characterized in that" to read --, wherein--;
line 3, delete "(KB)";

line 4, delete "(SD)"; and
line 5, delete "(MK)".

Please amend claim 63 to read as follows:

5 --63. Optical-fibre transmission system according to [one of Claims] claim
1 [to 24], [characterized in that] wherein the cable closure [(KMO)] comprises an
outer body [(AK)] which can withstand high mechanical loads and a cable-closure
sealing body [(KDK)] fitted in the outer body [(AK)], [in that] the outer body [(AK)]
has a removable outer cover [(AD)], which lies at the same height as the surface
[(SO)] of the laying ground [(VG)], [in that] the cable-closure sealing body [(KDK)]
10 lying thereunder is closed off by an upwardly removable sealing cover [(DD)], [in
that] cable connection units [(KA1, KA2, KA3)] in pipe form are led in from below
through the outer body [(AK)] into the cable-closure sealing body [(KDK)] and [in
that] the ends of the cables [(K, MK)] are led into [these] the cable connection units
[(KA1, KA2, KA3)] and sealed off.--

15 Claim 64, line 2, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--;
line 3, change "(MK), respectively comprising" to read --, which
comprise--;
line 5, delete "(KA)"; and
line 6, delete "(KV)".

20 Claim 65, line 2, delete "one of";
same line, change "characterized in that" to read --wherein--;
line 3, delete "(SS)"; and
line 4, delete "(KA3)" and "(K)".